

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A system for determining a status of a telephone line, the system
2 comprising:
3 a demarcation device associated with a customer premises;
4 a dial tone tester integrated with the demarcation device; and
5 a signal carrier extending from the demarcation device to an interface, wherein
6 the interface is operable for attachment to a customer premises equipment, within the
7 customer premises.

1 2. The system of claim 1, wherein the dial tone tester comprises:
2 a visual device; and
3 a voltage dividing circuit, wherein the voltage dividing circuit accepts a
4 signal-in voltage and provides a signal-out voltage.

1 3. The system of claim 2, wherein the dial tone tester is operable to
2 visually indicate the status of the telephone line.

1 4. The system of claim 2, wherein the visual device indicates an active
2 status of the telephone line.

1 5. The system of claim 4, wherein the visual device is activated when a
2 threshold voltage on the telephone line is greater than forty-three volts.

1 6. The system of claim 4, wherein the visual device is deactivated when a
2 threshold voltage on the telephone line is less than forty-four volts.

1 7. The system of claim 2, wherein the visual device is a light emitting
2 diode.

1 8. The system of claim 2, wherein the visual device is a dual light
2 emitting diode.

1 9. The system of claim 2, wherein the visual device is a liquid crystal
2 diode.

1 10. The system of claim 1, wherein the dial tone tester comprises an
2 audible device.

1 11. The system of claim 10, wherein the dial tone tester is operable to
2 audibly indicate the status of the telephone line.

1 12. The system of claim 10, wherein the audible device indicates an active
2 status of the telephone line.

1 13. The system of claim 12, wherein the audible device is activated when a
2 threshold voltage on the telephone line is greater than forty-three volts.

1 14. The system of claim 12, wherein the audible device is deactivated
2 when a threshold voltage on the telephone line is less than forty-four volts.

1 15. The system of claim 10, wherein the audible device is a piezoelectric
2 buzzer.

1 16. A demarcation device, comprising:
2 an integrated circuit, wherein the integrated circuit accepts upstream voltage
3 and provides downstream voltage;
4 a connection operable to couple the upstream voltage with a
5 telecommunications network;
6 a connection operable to couple the downstream voltage with a customer
7 premises equipment;
8 a first circuit for communicating information between the integrated circuit
9 and the telecommunications network via the upstream voltage;
10 a second circuit for communicating information between the integrated circuit
11 and the customer premises equipment via the downstream voltage; and
12 an integrated dial tone tester.

1 17. A method for detecting line status within a customer premises, the
2 steps comprising:
3 detecting an absence of a dial tone of a telephone line;
4 viewing a demarcation device located on the customer premises, wherein the
5 demarcation device is integrated with a dial tone tester;
6 determining a status from the dial tone tester; and

7 determining the line status within the customer premises or outside of the
8 customer premises.

1 18. A method for detecting line status within a customer premises, the
2 steps comprising:

3 receiving an inquiry originating from a customer premises;

4 sending a signal to a demarcation device located at the customer premises,
5 wherein the demarcation device is integrated with a dial tone tester; and

6 receiving a response originating from the customer premises, wherein the
7 response indicates a status of the dial tone tester.